

Alamogordo, NM – On Thursday, Congressman Harry Teague and the Veteran's Advisory Council were joined by Veteran's Affairs Secretary Eric K. Shinseki for a Veterans Roundtable in Alamogordo. The roundtable, comprised of veterans from throughout southern New Mexico and representatives from state and local veterans' service organizations, focused on the needs of New Mexico's large veteran population, as well as current issues facing the VA.

"Advocating for New Mexico's veterans continues to be one of my top priorities. Just as they stood up and fought for us, our service men and women need someone who stands up and fights for the services and benefits they deserve," said Congressman Harry Teague, a member of the House Veterans Affairs Committee. "I appreciate Secretary Shinseki joining us in Alamogordo today and applaud the work he has done to address important issues like mental health services and our homeless veterans."

Topics discussed during the roundtable included increased mental health care services for veterans, as well as access to services for rural veterans. The group also addressed the VA's renewed focus on reducing the backlog of cases and recent efforts to assist the homeless veterans population.

"Congressman Teague has made Veterans' mental health a top priority. This important effort will raise awareness among other members of Congress on the national stage of wounds of war such as TBI, PTSD, and depression. His effort will also increase support for improved services to treat these invisible wounds," said Secretary Eric Shinseki.

Thursday's event was the fifth Veterans Roundtable that Congressman Teague has hosted throughout the district since the beginning of the year. Congressman Teague has made veterans' issues a top priority, helping to secure advanced appropriations for the VA and introducing legislation aimed at addressing and reducing the impact PTSD and mental health issues have on the lives of returning veterans. He recently lead a bi-partisan group in forming the Invisible Wounds Caucus, to promote awareness of and solutions for the mental health challenges facing our service members and veterans.

###